
**JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

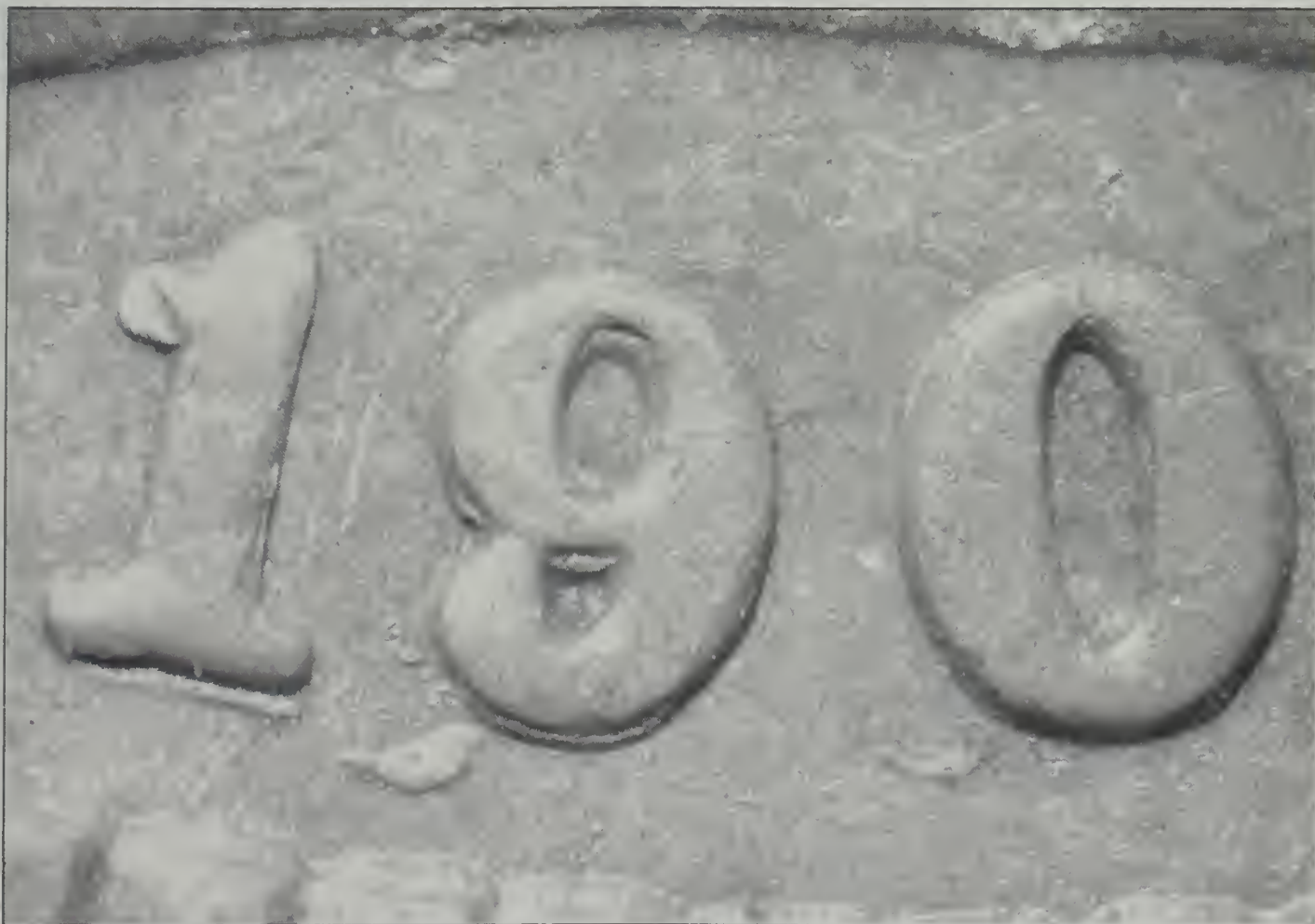
Volume 19

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2008

1908-D Barber Quarter



With a Repunched Date

See pages 5-7

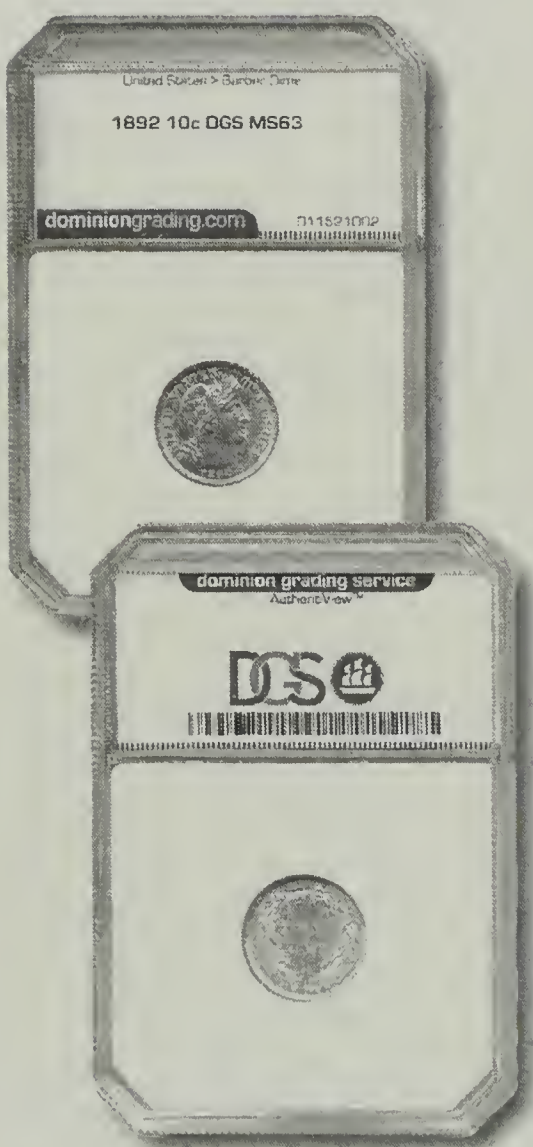
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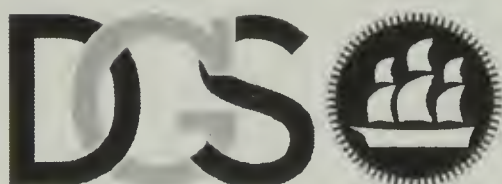


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BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Barber coins are doing well in collector and dealer circles based on my 2008 ANA Baltimore experience. My stating 'doing well' encompasses the market and prices but also people who are committed collectors of VG to VF coins, putting date sets together, and planning to write an article for the Barber journal.

Our BCCS meeting held Saturday morning was attended by over a dozen persons. Our meeting was covered by *Coin World* reporter Al Doyle. Editor Eileen Ribar and her husband (and error collector) Brian were lauded for their efforts in stopping altered coins from selling on eBay. Recall, one example involved someone buying a 1915 D half dollar and selling a few months later a 1915 half dollar with similar circulation marks and hits.

Additional topics discussed included the three 1892 micro O halves offered by dealer Harry Laibstain in uncirculated grades, and member Michael Fey's dramatic 1908 D multiple-punched date 25c which is covered on the next page (look for a press release in the numismatic press). John Frost gave the status of the Barber Dime census (great response from collectors, pulling the data together) which also appears in this issue. John also gave a brief history of prior 25c and 50c surveys and spoke of plans for the Barber Nickel (aka the Liberty five cents) survey.

As to other ANA happenings, this could fill the entire issue. Consider attending an ANA spring or summer convention and the reward of several days of numismatic immersion!

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan

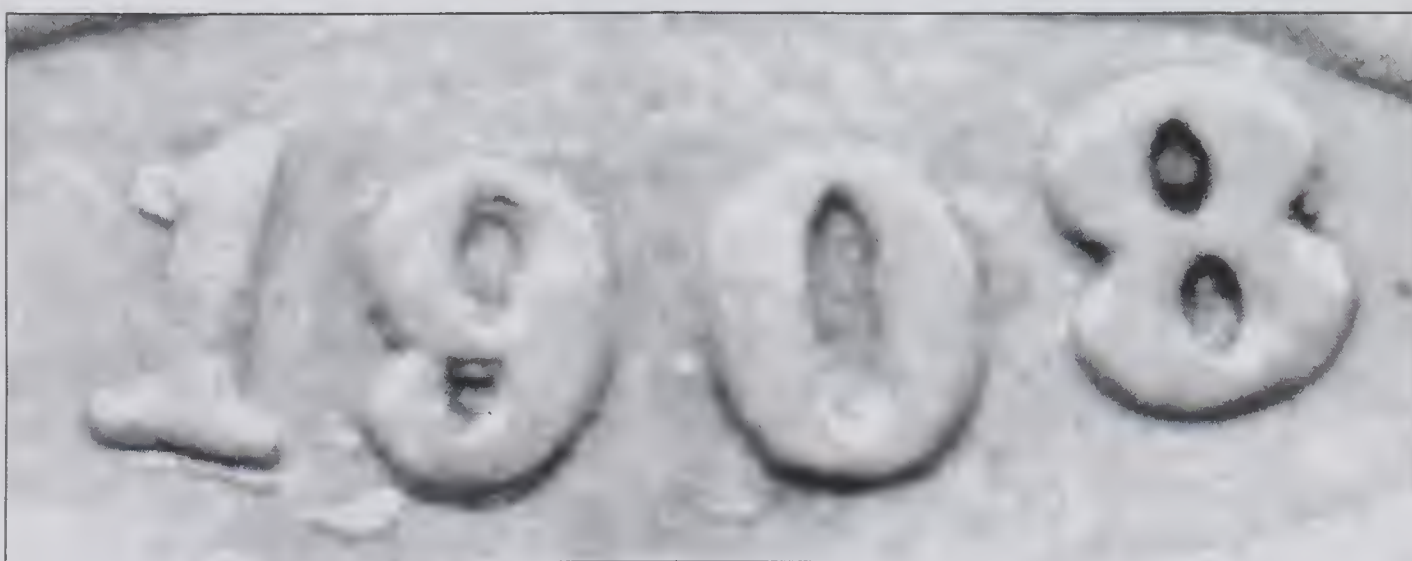
THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Nov. 25th

A Spectacular 1908-D Barber Quarter Repunched Date

By **Michael S. Fey, Ph.D.**



This coin was discovered courtesy of dealer Paul Marino, PMJ Coins, Manhasset, NY, who labeled the coin as a wide RPD (see close-up photo on the cover). When I first saw this AU Barber quarter in its flip, I quickly realized that it was something special, something that just didn't register in my mind as a known

Barber quarter variety. So, I bought the coin and returned home to do further research.

I checked my Breen Encyclopedia, my *Cherrypickers' Guide*, my *2nd Edition Barber Quarter* book by David Lawrence, my ANACS population report which lists 3 MPD's and 1 RPD, and Flynn's *Quick Reference to Top Misplaced Dates*. Although Lawrence lists eight different RPD's, none matched the spectacular displacement of the example shown here, so I presumed the ANACS coin was one of those listed by Lawrence. As a matter of fact, the above example is actually a triple repunched date, with slight doubling showing at the bottom of the "1" and within the top loop of the "9," but with a huge and spectacular separation of more than half a date digit at the bottom left of the "9" and the bottom left of the "0" in the date.

Two rare and spectacular repunched date varieties in the Seated Half Dollar series come to mind that may be compared to this RPD: the 1847 7/6 half and the 1849 RPD half, both with a huge "Wow" factor.

It's refreshing to know that in the year 2008, there are still some incredible Barber varieties still waiting to be discovered.

I sent the coin to Bill Fivaz who commented:

This looks suspiciously like Lawrence's #102 RPD, although he doesn't mention the repunched "9" and the photo is not very good in his book. The "1" lines up between the dentils as do all the other numbers on that RPD, and the doubling on the "1" is the same.

Without actually seeing the coin it's hard to say, but I don't think the major raised areas to the bottom left of the "9" and "0" were in the die. I could be wrong, as some wild and crazy things were going on in Denver in 1908 with a multitude of MPDs, especially on the Dimes.

Following is my response:

Bill, I respectfully disagree with your findings. However, I do feel another specimen would certainly be helpful. I am requesting that you send your findings to Phil Carrigan and John Frost of the BCCS for publication in the *Journal*. Perhaps we can get other BCCS members to come up with an answer.

Originally, you advised that you thought the coin corresponded with Lawrence #102 variety, and now you feel it corresponds with Lawrence #104. I don't believe it corresponds to either as the doubling is different on the numerals, the placement of the "8" in reference to the bust is much closer than either, and both lack the wild repunching evident

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on my specimen. The repunched portions of the so-called “9” and “0” are raised (and show no damage due to displaced metal), and slope upward in the same manner as the date. And, they are about the same distance to the left of the primary date digits. The odds of this happening by chance are pretty astronomical.

I disagree with your thoughts on the character of the repunched digits as well. They do contour like the primary digits to the upper right, appearing like the lower left serif of the “9” and the “0” in the date. The circular nature of both repunches make it difficult to assume anything else. Strange things happen to digits in metal upon subsequent heating and annealing of dies during the die sinking process.

Having said that, I can only be about 95% sure that it is a widely repunched date. Like you, I would like to leave a little room for doubt.

Bill’s final comment:

I will stick by my assessment that it is not a wide repunched date for the reasons I stated. I need to see considerably more proof than on this specimen.

Breen lists a single repunched “19” variety, which I believe is what this is (either the #102 or #104 - the photos aren’t that good).

I had several numismatists look at the coin at Baltimore ANA including Bill Fivaz again, Jeff Oxman, Mike Ellis and John Roberts (ICG and ANACS atributors),and John (JD) Danruther. I showed it at the Barber meeting as well.

I subsequently sent JD a photo of the RPD. After examining it using an overlay he commented:

Should never have doubted you! Was looking at the 0 wrong. It is not the outside part of the 0, but the inner lower right part of the digit. Overlays provided what personal examination could not.

The first date slanted down to the right. The lower right outside part of the 9 is the remnant visible, as I thought, but the 0 is the lower inner right part, not the outside. That is why it did not line up when I tried to do it on the coin at the show. I was trying to make the lower right outside of the 0 line up - its the inner part! They match in shape and angle.

Great find! Best Barber discovery in years! Congrats!

I would be most appreciative for comments or information you might have concerning this 1908-D quarter RPD. You can contact me at: Feyms@aol.com or by mail at P. O. Box C, Ironia, NJ 07845

Barber Dime Census and Rarity Survey Results

By John Frost

During the first half of 2008, the BCCS conducted a Census and Rarity Survey of Barber Dimes. This was the third phase of the surveys we started with the Quarters and Halves the last two years. Because the previous BCCS survey on the Dimes was over a decade ago, the primary purpose was to update our knowledge of the series as to both the populations of coins already in collectors' hands, and also the opinions of collectors as to the relative scarcity of the different dates in a wide range of grades. This is the third of four planned surveys. This article will look very similar to the previous reports, so forgive some repetition in laying the groundwork for the study and its results.

This project consisted of two parts:

- A Census for collectors to report their holdings for each date and grade level.
- A Rarity Survey for collectors to express their opinions as to the relative scarcity of the different dates in the series in various grades.

There was an unbelievably strong response to the survey, with more than 170 collectors reporting over 17,500 coins! With the survey being open to the general public, a number of guests participated via the BCCS website in addition to the BCCS membership.

While the Census data provides very interesting and useful information, care should be taken when making use of this information. There are a number of important caveats that must be considered, and we repeat them once again.

Limited sampling: Many collectors possess Barber Dimes as type coins, and others have them as part of a year set (e.g., 1899). Lots more are in the hands of people that inherited them from grandparents and the like. Although this survey was open to all collectors (not just BCCS members), only those guests who attended a BCCS meeting at a coin show, discovered our website, or who read about the survey in *Coin World* or by word of mouth (or have even heard of BCCS, participated in the survey). Therefore, the majority of holders of Barber Dimes did

not participate in the survey, and all of their coins are not represented here.

On or off the market: One assumption that is often made by readers is that a coin Census represents a cross section of the coins generally available in the marketplace. This, of course, is not true, as the reported coins are those that are already in collections and thus off the market. For the keys and semi-keys, which perhaps were acquired after a long search, they are often impounded in collections and potentially off the market for a very long time.

One collector, one coin: Most collectors simply don't buy coins in proportion to those on the market. Many people are putting together a set, in which case they will often buy only one specimen of each date and mint. However, if the collector believes certain dates are scarce and undervalued, he or she may purchase additional examples as an investment, or for later trades with other collectors. This can result in a collector possessing more examples of the scarcer dates than the common ones. Even if this doesn't happen, the rare dates will appear to be equally available as common dates.

Upgrading: Many collectors strive for coins in a certain grade range. However, they may have to settle for a different (usually lower) grade of the scarcer dates until they find one in the desired grade, often after a long search. Once upgraded, many collectors will keep the duplicates of the keys and semi-keys for future trades. For the common readily-available dates, many collectors will simply wait to purchase pieces in the desired grade. Again, this would tend to skew the census in favor of the scarcer dates.

Hoarding: Some collectors have an interest in certain dates. Others may have affinity for coins produced at certain mints. And often, hoarding sometimes occurs with issues that are considered scarce and/or undervalued.

Therefore, when trying to interpret the Census, one must bear all of these points in mind. It is for these reasons that we also conducted the Rarity Survey as a complement to the Census.

Census Results

Over 17,500 coins were reported by 172 participants, including 112 members and 60 guests (via the website). Seventy-seven people (nearly half!) reported complete sets of the 74 regular issues (minus the extremely rare 1894-S), and eleven of those people had two or more complete sets. One member reported six complete sets!

Barber Dime Census – 2008

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS	PF	Total	Rank
1892	14	62	20	30	21	28	46	15	2	238	47
1892-O	17	46	20	23	23	22	17	10		178	27
1892-S	5	38	19	16	15	12	14	8		127	9
1893	16	36	14	20	20	14	24	13	1	158	16
3/2	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	4	1	12	---
1893-O	17	38	18	19	22	15	11	4		144	11
1893-S	13	56	27	21	19	17	21	5		179	28
S/S/S	0	2	3	2	7	6	8	1		29	---
1894	10	59	19	19	15	14	19	8	0	163	18
1894-O	10	42	17	9	15	11	12	6		122	5
1894-S	0	0	---	---	---	---	---	1*	0	1*	---
1895	13	45	12	8	11	7	17	7	0	120	4
1895-O	9	37	17	12	9	8	9	1		102	1
1895-S	15	57	12	14	16	11	16	4		145	12
1896	11	66	17	17	27	17	20	8	0	183	30
1896-O	17	37	18	11	12	10	11	6		122	5
1896-S	7	36	21	9	7	12	12	6		110	2
1897	18	66	12	19	21	21	26	18	0	201	37
1897-O	11	40	19	12	16	12	11	5		126	7
1897-S	18	67	23	15	19	12	18	3		175	23
1898	34	104	24	25	28	28	22	18	2	285	58
1898-O	10	48	28	18	27	12	14	2		159	17
1898-S	9	50	15	10	27	18	20	4		153	14
1899	45	84	26	30	28	16	26	12	0	267	53
1899-O	13	31	22	26	29	17	16	3		157	15
1899-S	14	32	13	13	27	14	17	7		137	10
1900	39	66	25	31	36	26	20	10	2	255	49
1900-O	13	45	39	24	23	18	9	4		175	23
1900-S	11	42	25	14	31	35	33	7		198	35
1901	44	77	24	27	33	22	32	9	0	268	54
1901-O	19	56	31	30	35	25	26	3		225	45
O/O	0	3	0	3	2	2	3	2		15	---
1901-S	21	30	15	12	16	11	12	2		119	3
1902	38	85	22	31	34	35	31	7	0	283	56
1902-O	12	49	24	22	37	28	16	8		196	34
1902-S	16	49	28	22	19	17	16	5		172	21
1903	42	80	21	28	35	24	22	8	0	260	50
1903-O	19	49	28	37	36	23	18	5		215	42
1903-S	21	39	18	13	12	9	13	1		126	7
1904	47	70	33	28	35	28	21	7	2	271	55
1904-S	19	41	15	18	25	10	17	5		150	13

* = unconfirmed

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS	PF	Total	Rank
1905	36	60	27	35	32	31	26	11	2	260	51
1905-O	35	94	39	44	41	24	23	4		304	61
1905-o	10	37	15	12	11	6	8	3		102	---
1905-S	26	55	16	31	36	31	31	5		231	46
1906	65	116	25	44	39	30	26	13	1	359	67
1906-D	13	54	19	24	27	23	23	8		191	33
1906-O	15	37	30	27	28	19	11	6		173	22
1906-S	8	47	22	24	26	17	23	8		175	23
1907	77	132	41	49	50	28	31	14	0	422	68
1907-D	36	50	25	32	26	16	22	4		211	40
1907-O	18	77	29	26	32	16	11	6		215	42
1907-S	21	49	23	29	18	20	20	7		187	31
1908	39	108	47	32	31	31	28	16	2	334	63
1908-D	54	111	26	37	39	25	34	8		334	63
1908-O	16	50	24	34	31	16	13	6		190	32
1908-S	18	43	28	24	22	22	16	4		177	26
1909	31	98	32	37	39	22	19	11	0	289	59
1909-D	17	51	30	26	26	15	14	3		182	29
1909-O	17	40	29	39	37	14	15	7		198	35
O/inv D	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0		3	---
1909-S	9	54	25	22	20	17	15	7		169	20
1910	40	112	38	58	41	22	30	10	0	351	65
1910-D	25	50	27	44	21	19	18	6		210	39
1910-S	6	47	23	31	29	8	16	6		166	19
1911	76	197	54	52	51	34	24	14	1	503	71
1911-D	39	79	32	64	45	20	30	4		313	62
1911-S	20	54	29	33	31	26	16	5		214	41
1912	57	163	64	56	47	34	31	14	1	467	69
1912-D	39	105	55	44	50	27	24	14		358	66
1912-S	14	65	44	37	34	20	22	8		244	48
1913	72	270	75	64	63	32	27	11	0	614	74
1913-S	28	121	55	32	28	8	10	8		290	60
1914	43	257	63	84	63	34	33	10	1	588	73
1914-D	34	183	63	63	61	53	30	13		500	70
1914-S	10	48	25	34	46	18	16	7		204	38
1915	19	99	34	47	34	25	14	11	0	283	56
1915-S	8	59	41	31	38	14	21	9		221	44
1916	56	228	71	53	54	34	34	15	0	545	72
1916-S	16	72	44	26	46	29	21	8		262	52

Total Barber Dimes reported by grade:

<u>AG</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>PF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1860	5490	2155	2202	2243	1533	1523	576	17	17,599

The 1894-S Barber Dime

Many of us were wondering if any of the nine known 1894-S dimes would be reported in the census. Several 1894-S coins were reported by mistake (and later acknowledged and removed). One person entered an 1894-O in the S row by mistake. Another reported a complete VF set by simply filling in the VF space in every row, including the 1894-S in error.

A single 1894-S entry remains in the census. One coin, reported as MS and not Proof, has a * next to it. I attempted to confirm whether the entry was made on purpose or in error and got no response to date. Even though all 24 1894-S dimes originally minted are usually considered Proofs, it is undeniable that some of the not-the-nicest examples are not well struck, and a couple examples reportedly have little or no true proof attributes. Thus, I suppose it remains possible that the coin is the real deal. The person who submitted the census (who will be anonymous) could, however, be in a position to own one. Thus, I must leave the entry in the census until (and if) it is later recalled as an error. If this is the case, a correction will be made to the data on the BCCS website. I will leave it up to the reader to ponder.

Some additional details and observations

Excluding the 1894-S, as expected, the least reported coin was the 1895-O, the key date of the regular issues, with just over 100 coins. Surprisingly, not that far behind was the 1896-S, followed by a half dozen or so mostly early dates. Perhaps this is due to the fact that a large percentage of survey respondents had complete sets, and thus the 1895-O and other semi-keys appear more frequently in the survey than they otherwise might. One collector had 6 complete sets, and did not have appreciably fewer 1895-O coins than many of the other dates. Only a single 1895-O was reported in mint state, a distinction it shared with only the 1903-S in the regular issues, while 1898-O and 1901-S had just two MS coins each. 1897 and 1898 were the most common MS coins, with 18 reported of each.

The most reported coins in the survey were the common later dates. There was no clear “most common date” in the series based on this census, although the 1913 was the most reported coin. The coin considered the most common in the set, the 1916, finished as the 3rd most reported coin. All in all, there was a fairly smooth ramp-up of populations from the 102 for 1895-O to over 600 for 1913, with no clear dividing line between the semi-keys and rest.

As can be seen in the breakdown by grades, the largest number of coins was reported in G. However, there was a fairly even distribution in somewhat

higher grades, with more F and VF coins reported than VG! In this way, the Dimes census differs dramatically from that of the Quarters and Halves, where the mid- to higher circulated grades were far scarcer. Perhaps with the dimes, they were both more available and affordable than the quarters and halves. The lower count of AG coins can be attributed to the large melting of the early 1980's, plus a number of people remarked that they did not bother to report their lowest grade coins. Very few proofs were reported, perhaps indicating that many proofs are in the hands of type collectors or investors that did not participate in the survey.

By far, the 1905-O Micro O was the most frequently-reported variety, with 102 coins, representing over one-third of the 1905-O total of 303 coins, and the same as the total reported for 1895-O! There was, however, definite hoarding going on with that coin. The 1893-S/S/S was next with over 20 reported, followed by 1901-O over Horizontal O and the 1893/2. The scarcest of the varieties listed on the survey form was the 1909-O O over inverted D, with just 3 pieces reported. Many other varieties were reported as write-ins, and they are too numerous to mention here. They will be posted on the website, so you can look there for details. It was suggested at the BCCS meeting at the ANA that future repeat surveys of these series should focus on varieties, and most attending the meeting thought that was a good idea. Me too.

There was some clearly hoarding evident in the census, and it seemed to be spread across many of the dates, including the common ones. The champion hoarder reported over 3,300 (66 rolls!) Barber Dimes of all dates, mostly AG-VG grades, including 7 1895-O examples, and over 100 each of the late date common P and some D mints. The low-mintage 1913-S was also subject to much hoarding, with one person reporting 74 of them. Several others had more than 10-20 of 1913-S.

Rarity Survey Results

To supplement the Census and help collectors set expectations on how easy or difficult some coins might be to find in certain grades, we also conducted a Rarity Survey, where collectors could offer their opinion of the relative availability of better date coins. Here they could express how difficult it was for them to find certain coins (or those they have been looking for without success). Rarity Rating definitions accompany the results.

We did not poll for the more common issues, though several respondents made comments on a few of those as well.

Barber Dime Rarity Survey – 2008

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS
1892		R1	R2	R2	R2	R1	R1	R1
1892-O		R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1892-S		R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R4	R4
1893		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R1
1893-O		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3
1893-S		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3
1894		R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R3
1894-O		R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5
1894-S	R8	R8	-	-	-	-	-	R7
1895		R3	R4	R4	R4	R5	R5	R3
1895-O		R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5	R6
1895-S		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1896		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R2
1896-O		R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5
1896-S		R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R5	R4
1897		R1	R1	R1	R1	R2	R2	R1
1897-O		R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R3
1897-S		R2	R2	R3	R4	R4	R4	R5
1898		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1898-O		R2	R2	R3	R4	R4	R5	R6
1898-S		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R5
1899		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1899-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5
1899-S		R2	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3
1900		R1	R1	R1	R1	R2	R2	R1
1900-O		R2	R3	R4	R4	R4	R5	R5
1900-S		R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1901		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1901-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R4
1901-S		R3	R3	R3	R4	R5	R4	R4
1902		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R2
1902-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R4
1902-S		R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1903		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R3
1903-O		R2	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3
1903-S		R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R4
1904		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R2
1904-S		R3	R3	R4	R3	R4	R4	R3
1905		R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1905-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R2
1905-o		R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R6
1905-S		R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2

Date	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS
1906	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1906-D	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R3
1906-O	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R2
1906-S	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
1907	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1907-D	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4
1907-O	R1	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R2
1907-S	R2	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4
1908	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1908-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R2
1908-O	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3
1908-S	R1	R1	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3
1909	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1909-D	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1909-O	R2	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3
1909-S	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R5
1910	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1910-D	R1	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R2
1910-S	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3
1911	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1911-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1911-S	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1912	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1912-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1912-S	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1913	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1913-S	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R5	R2
1914	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1914-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1914-S	R2	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R2
1915	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1915-S	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R3	R3
1916	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1916-S	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1

R1: Common date and grade

R2: Better date and grade

R3: Tough date – available, but may require some looking

R4: Scarce – may or may not find at larger shows or auctions

R5: Very scarce – only a few offered for sale each year

R6: Almost never seen – only one or two may be offered per year

R7: Rare – on average, offered for sale only once every few years

R8: Unique, or nearly so

To publish the rarity ratings for the entire series in one place, we have added the ratings for the more common dates (from earlier works) to the results of the current survey of better dates. The new updated data for better dates is in normal typeface, and the information on common dates from prior works is in italicized grey typeface. We did not ask for opinions on the 1894-S, as we know the grades of all known specimens and thus, their associated rarity ratings. It is listed in the table along with the rest of the series.

Once again, the Rarity Survey got excellent results. Most collectors only expressed opinions on specific grade ranges that they have actively been looking for, while others only offered opinions on the specific dates that they are interested in. Like the last two years, there were many people that stated that the Rarity Ratings listed in *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes* by David Lawrence were mostly still accurate, and only provided opinions for the coins they believed had changed since the book was written.

All in all, there was a lot of consensus among Rarity Survey respondents, although there were a few coins that had a wide variance, mostly depending on whether the respondent had found one or not in their desired grades. The most notable of these was the 1913-S, along with 1896-O and -S issues. More on these appears below. Some dates had minor shifts in ratings from previous surveys, but nothing dramatic. Once again, I think we learned a lot about the relative availability of the coins in this difficult series. Dave's book told us that many Barber Dimes are really tough to find in higher circulated grades (lots of R4 and some R5 listings), and this survey seemed to confirm this. And the census data seemed to back this assertion up in most instances.

There were some changes to some of the key dates since the last BCCS Rarity Survey and Dave's Complete Guide book. A number of the dates and grades that had previously been listed with high rarity ratings have fallen slightly. Remembering the definitions, any coin with a rarity rating above R5 is extremely difficult to find (no more than one or so per year for sale anywhere), and only a select few dates and grades are really worthy of that lofty distinction. Even an R5 is a very tough customer!

Of the regular issues, none of the dates retained an R6 rating in circulated grades, with the 1895-O in XF and AU clearly dropping into solid R5 territory. The Micro O also fell to R5 in these grades, as clearly more specimens have been found in the last decade, although it is still very tough in high grades. In MS, the 1895-O and 1898-O were the only R6 coins, and the census seems to support this conclusion, with only 1 and 2 pieces reported, respectively. The enigma is the 1903-S, considered an R4 coin in MS with little disagreement, but there was only a single one reported in our census. Hmmm. The 1894-S is easy. Of the nine

known examples, 1 is AG, 1 is G (both unique in grade at R8), and the rest are not circulated, at R7.

The few differences of opinion were most visible on the 1913-S. Lawrence considered this low-mintage date (just 510,000) to be generally available, overrated, and hoarded, including in mint state (R2 there), and numerous members agreed. The collector with 74 of them had it in all grades G to MS. Others thought it vastly underrated, and one member said he thought it was the key to the set in grades over VG, including 1895-O! However, given the census results, it would appear the coin as a date is certainly quite widely available, but very tough in XF and AU. The survey respondents did boost its rarity rating to R5 in AU, but it remained high R4 in XF. Some debate was also evident on the 1896-O and -S coins, but as many people thought they were overrated as underrated (vastly in both cases!), thus leaving their rarity ratings where they were.

For a number of other dates, including 1895, 1897-S, 1900-O, and 1908-O, there were some collectors that complained that they have never seen decent pieces in mid to higher circulated grades, while others said they found those same dates easier than expected to come by. Interesting. It would be great for all of you to come to a BCCS meeting at FUN or the ANA to share your thoughts, and even bring duplicates of those dates you found easy, to trade with others who have not had the same luck!

All in all, however, in this Rarity Survey, there were no major surprises and with so many responses, it was amazing to see just how much consensus there really was.

Summary

This Census and Rarity Survey was intended to provide collectors of Barber Dimes some additional and updated information that will help them understand the relative availability and scarcity of the different issues in all major grade ranges. Due to the impressive participation, along with the quality of the responses, I am once again glad to report that I think we did that.

As stated previously, please use the results in any manner that will be most useful for your purposes, and we hope that the results will prove to be valuable information for you.

We look forward to conducting our final Census and Rarity Survey for the Liberty Nickels next year. After that, we can discuss conducting future census studies of the many varieties of the various Barber coins that have been discovered

in the past few years. As is evident with the Dimes, there are now lots of them in these previously ignored series.

For reference purposes which you can print on a single sheet of paper and easily take to shows with you, a PDF file of the Census and Rarity Survey will be posted on the website as well, along with a listing of the dime varieties that were reported.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this project and much appreciation for your ongoing support.

Happy hunting!



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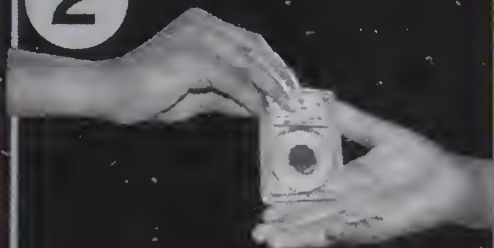
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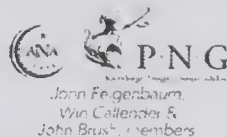
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David Lawrence

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Advancing the Art of Collecting



A Lifetime of Collecting Barber Coins

By William J. Rodriguez

I wish I could say that I collected Barber coins continuously over my seventy years, but unfortunately I can't. However, I have had various periods in which I have collected and enjoyed them.

I started out collecting these interesting coins when I was in junior high school in the early 1950's when I lived in New York City. Friends of mine got me interested in collecting coins and we turned to Barbers as they were still somewhat available in circulation. We would search through change from our parents and relatives and ask them to save any coins for us. The biggest source we had was a change-maker at a booth in the New York City subway system. At the time the fare was ten cents and he would save us all the Barber dimes he didn't need for himself. Once a week we would go to see him to see what treasures he would have for us. In addition to Barber dimes, there would also be an occasional Seated Liberty dime, but usually very worn or slightly damaged, and many common date Liberty nickels. One time he gave me a nickel three cent piece which someone had forced into the subway coin slot. The coin had a flattened rim. Our friend said that these were not uncommon even though they were almost one hundred years old. Most people just assumed they were slightly larger-sized dimes.

Over the course of a few years, I accumulated 60 different dates and mint-marks of Barber dimes including 92-O, 94, 98-S, 01-S, 03-S, 13-S and all coins issued after 1905. I still have an old Blue Book from 1960 with my inventory. My blue Whitman Barber Dimes folder was fairly full of coins that I purchased at face value. Most coins graded AG, G or VG. I did have an occasional F. Unfortunately, after a year or two, our friend was transferred to a location near his home and away from ours so we eventually lost contact with him. I kept going to various change-makers in the subways to ask for any Barbers, but most either kept them themselves or said they were too busy and not to bother them. One day, however, an elderly gentleman was very generous to me. When I asked if he had any Barber coins he went into his wallet and took out a glassine envelope containing an absolutely beautiful 1901 Barber quarter that he said he had been saving for many years. To this day I still have this coin in one of my type sets. Unfortunately, I couldn't resist the temptation to clean this coin with my mother's silver polish and the coin shows the results to this day. The coin has AU++ details but the polishing sure has reduced its monetary value.

As time passed my Barber dime collection stagnated. I collected a few

quarters and half dollars on occasion but my interest waned. Eventually I sold my Barber collection to a dealer and purchased some proof sets from the early 50's.

I never really lost my interest in Barbers but it was many years later that it was rekindled. After the great silver panic I became interested again in Barbers. I was in the Navy and living overseas and had to rely on mail-order purchases. I noticed that many scarce date Barber half dollars with mintages below one million were selling very close to bullion value for VG grades. I started buying the key and semi-key date coins and became hooked on Barbers once again. I concentrated on the Barber halves but stayed away from AG and G coins and coins that had been damaged or cleaned. After I returned to the States I went to shows and sometimes I was only able to find one or two coins that were attractive and suitable for my collecting interest. After I completed my collection I decided it was time to upgrade. I decided to upgrade all the key dates first as Barber halves were beginning to be noticed. This turned out to be a good move as I obtained all the key dates in grades VF or better at the price some of them sell for in G or VG today. Today I have a nice collection of Barbers in Capital holders. Few members of my local coin club have ever seen a complete collection except in very low grade coins. In studying the mintages of Barber halves I also studied the other Barbers. Along the way I bought nice VF 13-S and 14-S quarters and 01-S and 13-S dimes and a complete set of XF-AU Liberty nickels.

Life is full of "I should haves." Maybe I should have kept collecting Barbers in my early years. Maybe I should have started again in the late 1960's when a Navy shipmate tried to convince me to collect UNC Barber halves, which at the time were selling for around \$100 each. That was just too much for my budget at the time.

I am very happy with my current collections. I hope this article will inspire others to stay with the Barbers and have a lifetime of enjoyment collecting them.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Nov. 25th

Barber Bits

Greetings,

I spend a lot of time reading digitized and microfilmed newspapers from the early 20th century and occasionally come across articles dealing with coins. The following entry appeared in the February 14, 1906 edition of the Adair County News, published at Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky.

Prof. A.H. Ballard, has in his possession, a nickel dated 1883 different from any other issue of that denomination that has ever come under his observation. Furthermore, he has never met a person who has seen a nickel like it. It has a milled edge like a silver coin and the word "CENTS" is off. If there is a person in the county who has a nickel like it, Prof. Ballard would like for it to be presented.

Since the coin obviously was no longer plated by the time it fell into Prof. Ballard's possession, I contend it had passed through the hands of some of my kinfolk who laboriously "restored" the original surface.

Jim Garner



BCCS "blind" Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send out messages using a "Blind Carbon Copy" setting, which means everyone on the list would get the email, but nobody's email address would be displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait until the next issue of the *Journal*. It is, of course, completely voluntary, and is open to members only.

If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: BCCS@Barber-Coins.org and you will be added to the list. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.

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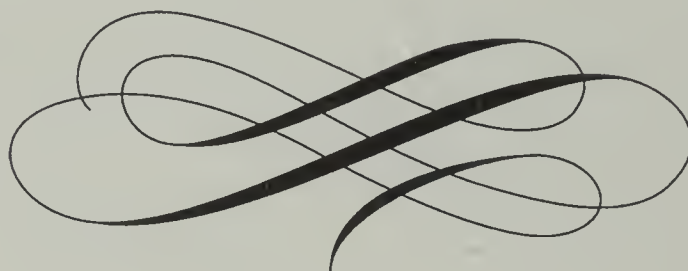
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